

Media Release

US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District

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Tuttle Creek tests sirens during Monthly and State Tests

MANHATTAN, Kan. - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will test six new sirens Monday, March 7th at 10:30 a.m. after the routine test of the area tornado warning sirens and again at 1:30 p.m. as part of the Corps' new Tuttle Creek Dam Failure Warning System.

The sirens, located at Sojourner Truth Park, the City of Manhattan Water Treatment Facility, Northeast Community Park, Eisenhower Baseball Complex, the intersection of Casement and Barnes roads and Tuttle Creek Outlet Park, will sound for 30 seconds. The test will include the tornado warning tone, the civil defense tone, and the dam safety evacuation tone for 10 seconds each. The tests will start and end with voice messages indicating that this is a test.

Additional siren testing will be conducted on Tuesday, March 15th at 10:30 a.m. and again at 6:00 p.m. in coordination with the state-wide tornado siren testing that day. Immediately after the state-wide tornado siren tests, the dam failure evacuation warning tone will sound for three minutes followed by a voice command instructing residents to seek high ground. The evening test will give people that may not be home during routine daytime tests an opportunity to become familiar with the warning tones. Residents should not take any action as a result of these tests.

The sirens are part of the Corps' Dam Failure Warning System, a high-tech monitoring and alert system designed to inform the community downstream of Tuttle Creek Dam to evacuate in the event of a dam failure caused by an earthquake.

Although the chances of an earthquake of this magnitude occurring near Manhattan are small, the warning system will help protect the local community while the Corps of Engineers modifies Tuttle Creek Dam to meet current dam safety standards for earthquake effects. Construction on the dam will begin in 2005.

For more information about the Tuttle Creek Dam Failure Warning System, visit the Corps' Web site at <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/tcdam/index.htm> or call Mitch Frazier at (816) 983-3486.